

now lives in subsidized housing and depends on soup kitchens and food pantries to stave off hunger.

Yesterday I met with two outstanding young people—Starnica Rodgers and Brandon Dunlap—who have struggled with homelessness their whole lives. During high school, both were what is called “unaccompanied homeless youth,” meaning they were underage and without a home.

Against those odds, both Starnica and Brandon are now thriving. Starnica is enrolled in college and is an expectant mother. Brandon is a college graduate with a good job and a bright future. Both are incredible success stories, but they are the exception to the rule—particularly in today’s economy. More common are the homeless to whom I passed out sandwiches on a recent cold Chicago night, working with the Night Ministry.

Too many Americans born in poverty don’t have the tools to escape it. And too many formerly middle-class Americans are falling into poverty. We must promote and protect affordable housing, nutrition assistance, good schools, and other services to enable everyone to have a chance at the American Dream.

We have a responsibility to reduce poverty so that no one has to make the choice between medication and heat, and so that every child has a place to call home and food to eat. We owe it to our constituents and our country to buffer existing social safety net programs so that Shirley, Jack, Starnica and Brandon can keep a roof over their heads and put food in their stomachs.

I am troubled with the vitriol that many public figures have directed at those struggling with poverty and at the programs that give them a chance to thrive. This is a time when all Americans need to help one another succeed.

The Half in Ten Campaign has set an ambitious but achievable goal of cutting poverty in half in ten years. I am an original cosponsor of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE’s Half in Ten Act, which would strengthen anti-poverty initiatives by creating a national plan to meet the goal of reducing poverty by 50 percent, eliminating extreme poverty, and eliminating child poverty over the next decade.

This task will be difficult. It will require an honest assessment of the successes and failures of our social safety net programs, and make recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of those programs. It will also seek solutions to the causes of poverty; income inequality, economic instability, lack of living wages, and lack of investment in low-income communities.

Poverty touches every community in America, and we should be able to formulate a robust, bipartisan solution to the crisis. I thank Congresswoman LEE for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to come together in support of the Half in Ten Act.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, some have raised concerns about potential

ambiguities in section 2207 of the FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act and I wanted to provide clarification on some of these matters. It was asked whether section 2207 restricts the obligation of funds for contract modifications to ongoing projects or awarding minor supporting contracts required to complete projects that have already begun. First, it is not the intent of the bill to restrict the Department of Defense from modifying current contracts or awarding required ancillary contracts in support of active projects because those prior-year funds have already been obligated and therefore are not subject to the restrictions set forth in section 2207. We understand that minor additional obligations may be required to complete those previously authorized projects, and we do not object to such minor obligations as long as they are within the scope of the original authorizations.

Others have asked me, can the Department of Defense use any funding to continue planning and program management activities or begin new studies that will help inform or develop any of the five requirements that are outlined in section 2207 that must be met before further funds are obligated? The language in section 2207 is not indented to restrict the Department of Defense’s ability to use prior-year funding to conduct program management activities, planning and further studies or complete ongoing studies that will better inform or allow the Department to complete work on the five requirements that are called out in section 2207 of this bill. This provision is not intended to stop the military buildup, but there are questions that remain outstanding.

I am committed to working with the Gentelady from Guam to continue to address these issues regarding the stationing of Marine Corps forces on Guam.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DR. WILLIAM MOBLEY

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. William C. Mobley, Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosciences at the University of California San Diego. On December 8th, Dr. Mobley was awarded the International Sisley-Jerome Lejeune Prize, in Paris, France, for his therapeutic research on Genetic Intellectual Disabilities.

Dr. Mobley’s many contributions in the field of Down Syndrome have been truly valued in the special needs community. His research to identify causes of neurodegenerative disorders has brought new optimism to those afflicted with diseases from Alzheimer’s to Down Syndrome.

As the parent of a child with Down Syndrome, I understand first-hand the daily challenges that families are facing. We are the beneficiaries of Dr. Mobley’s important research and future generations will be enabled as a result.

Dr. Mobley has used his expertise to serve this Congress. As the expert advisor for the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus, Dr. Mobley has educated Members of Congress on this important issue, raising public awareness while advancing critical research.

This award is a well deserved recognition of his life’s work to eradicate debilitating neurological diseases and disorders. I applaud Dr. Mobley on his outstanding commitment to this vital research and look forward to a continuing partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Mobley. Because of his efforts, I know that those with Down Syndrome, and their families, will see easier days ahead. With Dr. Mobley’s work, we will one day see a world free of these devastating neurological disorders.

#### TRIBUTE TO JANICE “TEKO” WISEMAN

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer this tribute to Janice “Teko” Wiseman, a native of Mobile, AL, who recently passed away at the age of 83. She spent her life in active service to her community and her family.

Married for 62 years, Teko and her husband, Dr. Hollis Wiseman, originally met as high school sweethearts.

During the 1960’s—a decade of turmoil in Alabama—Teko and Hollis set an example of courage and commitment to justice and the city they loved by founding ABLE (Alabamians Behind Local Education), an organization to help peacefully integrate the Mobile County schools. Although opposed by some political leaders at the time, the Wisemans stood fast and eventually saw their goals realized. Their efforts received international attention on a Voice of America broadcast.

In 1983, Teko helped found Keep Mobile Beautiful and worked as its coordinator for ten years. Her energy and creativity resulted in a beautification competition called No More Eyesore, which engaged residents from schoolchildren to bank presidents to clean up and beautify the ugliest eyesores around town. Other projects included planting the intersection of I-65 and I-10 and landscaping the entrance to Bankhead Tunnel. Her impact on the city is visible to this day.

When they retired twenty years ago, Teko and Hollis moved to Fairhope, Alabama. There, Hollis, who had built the University of South Alabama Neonatal Intensive Care Unit named in his honor, became president of the Fairhope Library Board and spearheaded the drive to raise approximately seven million dollars to build the current state of the art library.

Meanwhile, Teko Wiseman turned her attention to the lack of sidewalks along the Bay and conceived a project to building a hike/bike trail beginning at the Battleship on the Causeway and extending along the Eastern Shore to Weeks Bay. The organization she founded in 1995 to realize this dream, the Eastern Shore Trailblazers, has raised over \$6.5 million through private donations and grants. The 32 mile trail is only two miles short of completion.

Mr. Speaker, Teko was a treasure to South Alabama and her loss is one that is shared by our entire community.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to her husband, Hollis; her sister, Merrellyn Miller; their six children, Holly Wiseman, Merrell Wiseman, Valery De Laney, Carole Norden, Jay